

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /090 W
-----231703Z 004665 /45 S

R 231118Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4212
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 8467

KHARTOUM FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, RH, SF
SUBJ: THE US, BRITAIN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: MAPUTO 631

1. NOW THAT THE DUST HAS SETTLED OVER A CONSIDERABLE
US AND WESTERN ACHIEVEMENT IN MAPUTO, WE WOULD LIKE
BRIEFLY TO REGISTER OUR CONCERN ABOUT AND STRONG
DISAGREEMENT WITH SOME OF THE SWEEPING ASSUMPTIONS
IN PARAGRAPHS 11 THROUGH 13 OF MAPUTO 631. WE BELIEVE
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THAT THE ASSERTION THAT BRITAIN IS A "WEAK ALLY" IS
WRONG, AND CANNOT BE SUPPORTED EITHER BY AN APPRAISAL
OF BRITISH POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, MILITARY, AND CULTURAL
STRENGTHS, OR BY A RELATIVE COMPARISON OF THIS
COUNTRY WITH NEARLY ALL OF THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE
WORLD. IT IS TRUE THAT THE UK IS NO LONGER A MAJESTIC
AND IMPERIAL POWER, AND IT IS TRUE THAT BRITAIN HAS

BECOME GUN-SHY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, ITS INFLUENCE IN ATLANTIC AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS REMAINS GREAT. BRITAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE US SECURITY COMMITMENT IN EUROPE, TO NATO, AND TO THE COMMON DEFENSE IS INDISPENSIBLE.

2. THUS, WHAT MOST DISTURBS US IS WHAT WE REGARD AS A SIMPLISTIC CHOICE STATED IN "THE NEED TO DECIDE BETWEEN THE CURRENT IMPORTANCE OF A WEAK ALLY AND THE FUTURE IMPORTANCE OF ANOTHER AREA OF THE WORLD." THIS STRIKES US AS A MISUNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN NATIONAL INTERESTS, OF THE DANGEROUS GROWTH OF SOVIET THEATER AND GLOBAL MILITARY POWER, INDEED OF THE CENTRAL SECURITY CONCERNS WHICH HAVE UNDERPINNED US FOREIGN POLICY SINCE THE WAR. IT POSTULATES A CHOICE BETWEEN FUNDAMENTAL US INTERESTS--BRITAIN OR AFRICA--AS IF BOTH CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. MOREOVER, IT SEEMS TO ASSUME THAT AFRICAN ISSUES MAKE UP THE ONLY IMPORTANT STRAND IN THE COMPLEX PATTERN OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP.

3. WE MAY OFTEN DISAGREE WITH THE BRITISH AS OUR SOUTHERN AFRICAN INITIATIVE UNFOLDS AND WE MAY BREAK WITH THEM ON MAJOR DECISIONS CONCERNING AFRICA FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD. THEY KNOW THAT ALREADY AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO GUARD THEIR INTERESTS, AS THEY SEE THEM, JUST AS WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE OUR OWN. BUT IN OUR JUDGMENT BOTH OF US NEED TO CONTINUALLY REMEMBER THAT ON MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE US AND UK PERCEIVE THEIR LONG-TERM INTERESTS AS IDENTICAL. BROAD EITHER/OR CHOICES WHICH WOULD THREATEN THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENT OVER INDIVIDUAL, THOUGH IMPORTANT ISSUES, ARE SIMPLY NOT REALISTIC.

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